

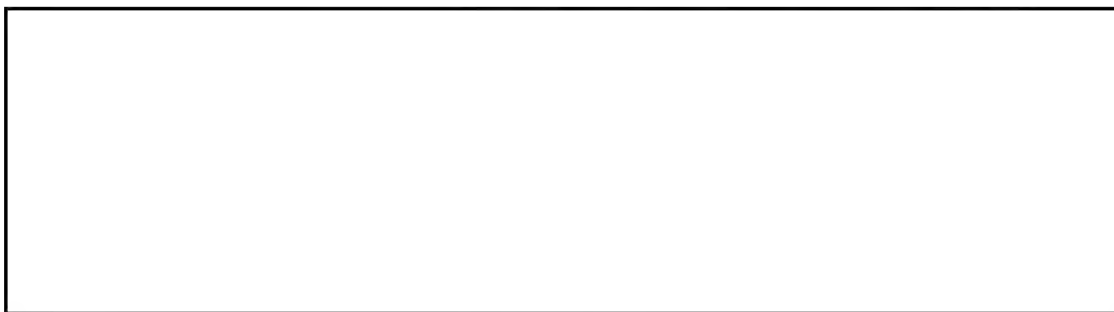
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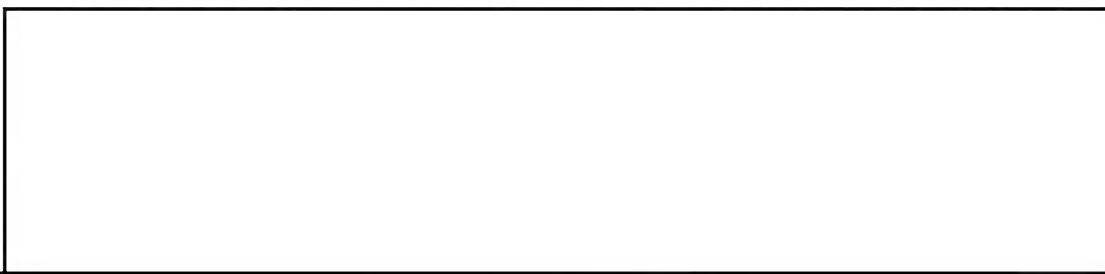
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Echeverria for UN Secretary General

Mexican President Echeverria's interest in the post of UN Secretary General is becoming increasingly obvious.

Kurt Waldheim's term expires in December 1976, and Echeverria's Presidency concludes at the same time. Echeverria apparently recognizes that his candidacy may have tough going. Although he recently claimed that there was a strong current of sympathy in his favor and his credentials as a Third World leader have been bolstered during the past year--primarily as the author of the controversial Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States--he also admits that it is premature to even discuss the possibility of his candidacy.

Echeverria must gain the approval of the five permanent members of the Security Council--the US, UK, USSR, France and China--any of whom can exercise their veto should the nomination be considered. The Council's "recommendation" must then be approved by the General Assembly.

The Mexican President probably feels that his candidacy is enhanced by the fact that Latin America has never had the Secretary-Generalship. Although the UN customarily adheres to the principle of regional rotation for major posts, his election will probably not remain uncontested. One possible contender, Waldheim, has declined to confirm that he will seek another five year term but it is widely assumed that he will.

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Gentlemen's Disagreement

The EC has rejected the latest US offer in negotiations with the US and Japan on a "gentlemen's agreement" that would establish guidelines for granting credit to purchasers of their exports. EC officials cancelled a July 7 meeting of the EC export credit working group in Brussels and informed Washington that the community does not intend to discuss the issue further until the US makes a new offer.

An EC Commission official said the US counter-proposal--which would have modified an earlier EC proposal and provided for longer credit terms in certain cases--represented a backward step and returned the talks to where they began 18 months ago. The official added that the EC is united against the US offer and that there is now little chance of persuading the EC to exert pressure on France to take a more flexible position, especially on minimum interest rates. The US has been seeking to raise the minimum interest rate level and extend limits on maturity of credits, while the EC--with Paris in the vanguard--has sought the opposite.

The Community may in fact be using the rejection of the US counter-proposal as a means to give a pause to the negotiations rather than to break them off completely.

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